

December 11, 2007

Engaging on the Iran Debate

Voters' attitudes toward an escalated conflict with Iran

To: Interested Parties

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Democrats should speak forcefully about national security and how best to contend with Iran. Even before the NIE concluded that Iran stopped its nuclear weapons program, voters were distrustful of President Bush with regard to Iran. On national security today, voters trust Democrats more than Republicans, and they would rather have a new president – particularly a Democratic president – deal with Iran's nuclear program. Indeed, by a 2-1 margin, voters want their member of Congress to vote against a resolution that would give Bush authority to use military action against Iran.¹

- **Voters distrustful of Bush and his ability to deal with Iran.** Even before the NIE released its striking report, voters had doubts about Bush with regard to Iran. By a 15-point margin (55 to 40 percent), voters say they cannot trust the White House on Iran; and more than half worry that Bush will be too quick to get us into a war with Iran.
- **Democrats more trusted than Republicans on Iran.** Democrats have a historic opportunity to raise their voice on national security. Voters trust Democrats more than Republicans to keep America secure, and by a 9-point margin would rather have a new Democratic president than a Republican president deal with Iran and its nuclear program.

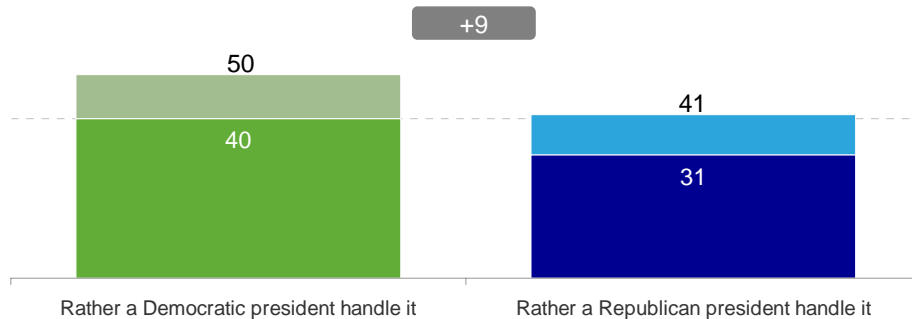
¹ National survey of 804 likely voters conducted November 13-18, 2007.

A majority wants a Democratic president to deal with Iran

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: If we have to decide on how to deal with Iran and its nuclear program, I would rather a new Democratic president handle it.

Statement 2: If we have to decide on how to deal with Iran and its nuclear program, I would rather a Republican president handle it.



Page 13 | Greenberg Quinlan Rosner

- **Call for Congress to act.** By a 2-to-1 margin, voters want their member of Congress to vote against a resolution that would give Bush the authority to possibly use military action to address Iran's nuclear program.

Voters Want Congress to Oppose Giving Bush Authority to Attack Iran by 2:1 Margin

Now, imagine that President Bush asked the Congress to support a resolution that gave him the authority to use whatever means are necessary to **end the Iran nuclear program**, including possible U.S. military action against Iran. Do you want your member of Congress to vote in favor of or against this resolution?

■ Against the resolution strongly ■ Against the resolution somewhat
■ For the resolution strongly ■ For the resolution somewhat

